The Southern PATRIOT

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PRESS STRESSES SCHOOL TROUBLE, SLURS SUCCESS

Events in three states — Delaware, West Virginia, and Mississippi—gained wide attention last month because of the hostility expressed toward school integration.

The difficulties experienced by border state officials, and the reckless pronouncements of Mississippi legislators were prominently displayed by the Southern press. The implicit moral for the Southern reader seemed to be: (1) If they are having trouble up there, you can see how impossible desegregation would be here, and (2) so let us exert ourselves in devising extra-legal ways such as Mississippians have suggested to preserve the status quo.

In the effort to present a more balanced perspective on these exploited incidents we have made a compilation of on-the-scene reports from local correspondents.

DELAWARE — In Milford the city board of education opened formerly all-white Lakeview High School to 11 Negro tenth-grade pupils. This action was taken without prior public announcement, nor was approval for the move sought from the State board in accordance with a State directive.

Following this, on Sept. 17, a meeting of some 1,500 Milford citizens was held at the American Legion home. ("Who called the meeting? Nobody seemed to know . . . Who presided at the session? Again, nobody," reported the Wilmington Daily News.) Strong anti-integration sentiments were expressed and a protest petition signed.

Handbills were circulated in the community giving the views of one Bryant W. Bowles, president of the "National Association for the Advancement of White People," who declared he had recently toured the South and found that "ninety per cent" of the Negroes don't want to go to school with whites. Bowles later addressed public gatherings.

On Sept. 20 Lakeview school was closed for a day while the board debated the petition to oust the Negro students. When telephone calls were received threatening bodily harm to the Negroes, the school was closed for an indefinite period, and the State Board of Education was asked to step in.

On Sept. 23, the State board ruled that the Milford body had "exceeded its authority" by not submitting its integration plan for approval, but at the same time, "had it refused admission to the students in question" it would have violated the law. Therefore, Lakeview school should continue operation on an integrated basis. Governor J. Caleb Boggs ordered the school to reopen Sept. 27. The Milford board resigned in protest at the State board's withholding full endorsement of its position.

". . . WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE TO ALL"—The pledge of allegiance to their flag and nation must have assumed a deeper meaning to these McKinley Technical High School students in Washington, D. C. as for the first time Negro and white students took the pledge together. Schools in the nation's capital opened last month on an integrated basis in compliance with the May 17 Supreme Court decision making segregation illegal.

—Washington Star Photo

On the 27th Lakeview school opened with 456 out of 1,561 students present.

There were numerous mass meetings called by the NAAWP marked by provocative speeches. Said Rev. Manaes Warrington, president of the Delaware Chapter of NAAWP, "No matter if this means bloodshed we will see it through."

And Charles West, vice-president, later resigned, said, "I don't want any bloodshed but if it comes to that, I am for it." He added, "I believe God intended for us to have bloodshed before we see our race all jumbled up."

On the 28th, 53 additional students reported for classes. On the night of the 29th a 7-foot high cross was burned in front of the school. On Sept. 30 a new school board surrendered and ruled that Negroes should be removed from Lakeview School. This ended the white parents' "strike."

The basic cause of the bitter dispute was diagnosed by MORNING NEWS columnist Bill Frank as being the lack of any advance notice to the white community about the change.

"The Milford Board of Education didn't approach its problem the same way Wilmington, New Castle, Newark, Delaware City, Rose Hill-Minquadale, or Dover did." In those cities pre-school meetings were called to air views on integration and citizen committees appointed to study its effects and to report back to the public.

As a result of such preparation, integration at other Delaware schools was much like the experience of George Gray Elementary School in Wilmington. The

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SCEF Policy Stand Elicits Bold, Heartening Response

After the drafting of a statement of policy by members of the SCEF Board of Directors at a meeting convened to appraise the implications of the outlawing of school segregation, we sent copies of the statement to SCEF friends and supporters and invited their reaction.

The following represents a sampling of the comments received. In many of the ideas expressed we sensed a depth and strength of feeling that promises the complete triumph of the democratic ideal in this country.

* * * *

As a child, my family traveled up country in South Africa by ox-wagon. My dad was a doctor. So when what they called "Devil's Fever" broke out in what is now Rhodesia, all the white people left and dad sent us off, too . . . but he stayed himself and served all the beloved Kaffirs and Basutos, till he himself died! So you can see why I'm against segregation.

MRS. ALENA W. REYNOLDS
Glendale, Calif.

* * *

Your policy statement and the forthright stand of the Mississippi Negro representatives against the State's proposal for voluntary segregation are really assuring and give hope for the future in better race relations.

MR. & MRS. LOUIS R. MEHLINGER
Washington, D. C.

* * *

In most communities we must move slowly, but I hope the S.C.E.F. will keep "needling" all of us on, so we move a little faster.

CARL LANDES
Wadley, Ala.

* * *

I wish that the churches would take a more decided stand in favor of the Supreme Court decision. How can they call themselves "Christian" and believe in segregation? Am glad to see bishops, clergy, rabbis, on your board.

MRS. WADSWORTH BAYLOR
Santa Barbara ,Calif.

* * *

The Supreme Court set an example of patience by not requiring implementation of the law at once. I note in the press examples of both willingness and unwillingness to accept integration and realize the revolutionary quality of the new law. So I say PATIENCE is the watchword. with gentle pressure. It happens that I have many Southern kinfolk, so am familiar with diverse patterns of thinking on the whole race question.

THEODORA M. CARRELL
Binghamton, N. Y.

This statement is not broad enough to my way of thinking. Atheists and agnostics and humanists should not be barred. Integration should not be limited. Community gatherings, such as forums, etc., should not inquire into religious beliefs. "Let freedom ring." Schools should teach ethics but not religious beliefs.

JULIA W. HILL
Richmond, Va.

* * *

Persons like Jenner and McCarthy are better agents of Soviet Russia than the worst objects of their hunt.

WITTER BYNNER
Sante Fe, New Mex.

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Beautiful policy statement. I'm proud of you all and with you 100%. Let's work together to carry this out and also to fight the inquisitors.

LEONARD WALKER
Kansas City, Mo.

* * *

I do not feel that integration of religious assemblies should be a prime objective, largely because I do not consider activity in the so-called religious sphere to be of the importance that activity is in the economic and educational and political spheres.

LEON H. SCHNEYER
Birmingham, Ala.

* * *

It seems to me that the spiritual emancipation or salvation is impossible without the economic emancipation.

DR. M. S. SUGARMAN
Meriden, Conn.

* * *

Re: Item 4. Churches have a right to discriminate just as people have a right not to attend church. Since it does not contribute to a person's survival. who cares?

MR. & MRS. BERNARD ALTMAN
Kelso, Wash.

* * *

I think the policy statement might very well have noted that the attack by Eastland, *et al*, on the SCEF and the whole attempt to smear it as Communist and so on; indeed, the whole McCarthyite attack on civil liberties in general, is tied in with this Supreme Court decision.

I think the Supreme Court was forced by world opinion to this decision, in an effort to counterbalance the low esteem in which the U.S. is held, because of its hypocritical pretensions to perfect democracy, when all the while the McCarthys, Brownells and the racists parade around and act big. . .

H. DAVID HAMMOND
Audubon, N. J.

I like the implication that we recognize the gap between the statute law and the living law.

ALBERT HOWARD CARTER
Fayetteville, Ark.

* * *

I think that in many sections a huge amount of education will be necessary before action in the right direction can become most effective . . . Initial and supporting action should be taken at once, but this should be such as to develop as little antagonism as possible. The "rugged individualists" of our mountain areas —and some others—cannot be told what to do. They're stubborn.

P. L. HOLLISTER
Cookeville, Tennessee

* * *

It is all so much a matter of individual growth, and at present the schools and churches teach, train and preach, but give the children no opportunity for experience in human or material contact, no time for initiative, design, judgement —to think for themselves.

ALEXIS C. FERM
Fairhope, Ala.

* * *

I am of the opinion there is a direct connection between peace on earth and brotherhood of all mankind.

LEX B. COX
Whittier, Calif.

* * *

An excellent statement.

EARL B. DICKERSON
Chicago, Ill.

* * *

Environmental influences are the greatest forces to affect the . . . emotional life of a child. If the adult is not emotionally matured or does not have peacefulness within him or herself, he or she will not act or do peacefully within the environment. The manifestation of brotherly love will not be given out. A great program would be group psychotherapy to the adults who act as teachers or parent substitutes for the children. . .

S. ALVIN GREENBERG, M.D.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

* * *

Because I think that federal fair practices legislation may be so inept as to actually delay enforcement, I am not sure about this. The other items refer to securing privileges that are based on civil and human rights about which there can be no question, but compulsory legislation is not so clearly called for, in my opinion.

MARJORIE F. WARNER
Walpole, N. H.

LOUISVILLE OFFICIALS HARRASS FOES OF HOUSING 'TABOO'

In a speech in Baltimore last month NAACP Chief Counsel Thurgood Marshall declared that school integration was "the opening wedge" and that the "real barrier" of segregated residential districts should be the next target.

In the past two issues the Patriot has reported the events in Louisville where a Negro couple and their two infant children sought to breach that barrier. The Andrew Wades bought a house they liked, and did not consider the determination of the builder to keep the neighborhood "lily-white."

Since the purchase, the house has been stoned, fired at and then bombed—causing $5,000 damage. An attempt to foreclose the mortgage is now being contested in the courts. Wade was arrested and sentenced on a flimsy "disturbing the peace' charge. This much we reported, but the end of the ordeal is not in sight: Last month the following occurred:

Carl Braden, white newspaperman who transferred the deed to the house to Wade, was indicted on a charge of voting twice in the Kentucky Democratic primary. The mixup resulted from a change in voting precincts and Braden said he acted upon the advice of a polling booth official. The judge expressed his belief that it was probably an honest mistake. But nevertheless, trial is set for October 15.

When Jefferson County Attorney A. Scott Hamilton presented the bombing of the Wade house to the grand jury, he offered as one possibility that it might have been a Communist plot to stir up racial trouble.

Claiming this theory as justification, he proceeded to question Wade, Mr. and Mrs. Braden and other white people who had taken a sympathetic stand as to whether they were Communists or had ever read the *Daily Worker*, etc. The Bradens accused Hamilton of witch-hunting and refused to answer. The Louisville *Courier-Journal* and *Times*, although critical of the Wade house purchase, both firmly castigated Hamilton, telling him that "junior-league McCarthyism" wouldn't solve the case.

But Judge L. R. Curtis upheld the relevance of such inquiries, and now Hamilton plans to prosecute the Bradens either for contempt or for obstructing justice.

Meanwhile, the Wade Defense Committee is continuing its efforts to raise the $8,000 due on the house mortgage, in case the court should order immediate foreclosure.

Contributions are being placed in a trust fund, and will be paid back at the usual rate of interest by the Wades. Checks or requests for information should be addressed to Mrs. Maeme Brock, treasurer. Wade Defense Committee, 2502 Madison St., Louisville, Ky.

* * *

Last month in Coronado, Va., a suburb of Norfolk, the third dynamite exploison since Aug. 24 damaged a Negro-owned home.

Virtually continuous violence has been going on after 30 of 300 hundred homes in the area were sold to Negros by white owners who found no other market for them.

Police have made only one arrest—holding a white man charged with throwing firecrackers at one of the disputed houses.

Report on School Trouble Spots

(Continued from Page 1.)

first day of attendance by 99 Negro pupils in the enrollment of 924 was called "Wonderful. Just wonderful. Nothing short of it." Here old pupils formed welcoming groups to greet the new; here, the teachers had been briefed with human relations studies. And last year, before integration, Gray students had exchanged visiting days at the other schools.

But such solid successes don't suit the purposes of many Southern editors.

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WEST VIRGINIA—At White Sulphur Springs, a failure of nerve on the part of local school officials resulted in a return to segregation.

Twenty-five Negro students enrolled in the city's lone high school on Sept. 7. On Sept. 9 the school played its first football game and several Negro players sat on the bench. After the game two of those players were set upon by a mob of white youths—between 10 or 25 in number, according to various estimates.

The attackers were generally described as "town hoodlums who had nothing to do with the school." But they boasted of their exploit to the school's students and stirred up resentment.

The following Monday some 300 of the school's 418 students went on strike, paraded through town and carrying signs saying "No Negroes Wanted in Our Schools." (Some students would strike against Christmas if somebody suggested it," was the comment of the high school principal.) But the Negro students attended class as usual. That night some 700 white adults met on the school football field and threatened to "drag the Negroes out bodily" if the school board didn't give in.

The school board gave in. On Sept. 13 it voted a return to the old order of things, giving "overcrowding" as excuse. Negro parents reluctantly agreed to send their children back to Bolling High in Lewisburg, 10 miles away—for this school year only.

In Madison (Boone Co.) two men identified only as "a gentleman from Alabama" and a "Mr. Kessinger from Danville" presented themselves as ministers of the gospel and unsuccessfully tried to lead a protest of white parents against 18 Negro students attending the local high school. School authorities invited the cooperation of the student council and called a meeting of the student body to "talk out" the difficulty. Principal E. C. Brown reported that integration is now working out fine."

In Buckhannon (Upshur Co.) the only 2 Negro students enrolled were elected class officers by their fellow students. The Freshman class elected Elaine Hall as its treasurer and the 8th grade elected Wayne Grant as its secretary.

Ford Run School in Barbour County was operating at full strength on Sept. 13 after a two-week boycott by white parents.

At Annabelle School in Four States, W. Va., a 3-week "strike" of parents protesting the presence of 13 Negro pupils (out of a total of 157) was ended by a court injunction. Parents had kept their children out of school for some time, and the school board threatened the parents with "pink slips", but when parents picketed the school and turned back the principal and teachers, the Marion County Board of Education went to court.

On Sept. 28 Circuit Court Judge J. Harper Meredith at Fairmont issued a temporary injunction prohibiting 53 parents named as defendants "from in any way interfering with or obstructing the entering or leaving of the school grounds and building," and from "assaulting, coercing or threatening any pupil, principal, teacher or other agent" of the board.

In issuing his order, Judge Meredith termed the picketing "a rebellion against the government, which cannot be tolerated . . . I won't permit it to continue. If necessary I'll fill the jail until their

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